

Minutes from 25 July 2016
Presented 29 Aug 2016
Shore Drive Community Coalition General Meeting
Submitted by David Williams

Meeting Location: Ocean Park Volunteer Rescue Squad Meeting Hall
Meeting Start: Called to order at 7:30 pm by Todd Solomon. 17 attendees.

Officers' Reports:

Treasurer's Report – Kathy Pawlak

Balance as of 25 JULY 2016	\$7,263.45
Special Projects Account	\$1,499.55
Total memberships 2016	20

Secretary's Report – David Williams

Minutes from 27 JUNE 2016 approved with no corrections.

Vice President Wally Damon briefly discussed the recent zoning policy issue associated with the Buoy 44 restaurant owner's effort to downsize his parking lot to allow for construction of a private residence in the space. Virginia Beach's zoning requirements are specific but variances can be presented for approval. The date for the zoning variance was not available.

Further SDCC Board members' reports were to follow the scheduled special presentation for this meeting.

Special Presentation Master Police Officer Jim D. Price, VB Police Department discussed the city's vehicle towing policy related to illegal parking. MPO Price, a member of the city's Towing Advisory Board, he discussed the board's membership being composed of city appointed representatives from the Police Department, citizen groups, and towing companies. Virginia state code allows municipalities to set parameters for towing. The Towing Advisory Board advises City Council and major organizations of current policies. MPO Price stated that the Oceanfront's bad reputation for questionable towing has now been cleaned up.

When an illegally parked vehicle is towed, (called "non-consensual towing") the owner is given a Tow Survey Card to document the violation. The owner can challenge the towing or offer comments related to the event. To monitor policy enforcement, the police department and the Towing Advisory Board review this card. Last year, over 15,000 illegally parked vehicles were towed.

The city has established requirements to be an authorized non-consensual towing company. Drivers must pass a background check (no felonies). Different than non-consensual towing, a driver or owner can request "private consensual" towing for various reasons; broken down, to be repaired, moved or donated. The price for private consensual towing is contractual, NOT set by the city as with non-consensual towing. MPO Price stated that the current non-consensual towing fee is \$145 with NO ADDS for nighttime, weekends, holidays, use of tow dollies, or other requirements.

MPO Price explained that a policeman does not have the authority to remove a vehicle on someone's property, but a homeowner can legally call ANY towing company to remove a vehicle illegally parked in owner's driveway and there is no set towing cost. With open parking, signage is required (do not park here, customers only, etc.) before a

vehicle can be towed. Again, costs are NOT SET for towing from open parking areas. If a vehicle impairs traffic, it can be towed.

If a vehicle is parked in the city's easement (within 6 feet from road), it comes into question of whether it is on city or private property or not. If it is posted "no parking" (paying particular attention to the direction of the arrows on the sign), presents a traffic hazard, the police department will make a determination. Call the non-emergency telephone number (757) 385-5000 to submit a complaint and request towing. If a vehicle is parked within 15 feet of an intersection, in front of a fire hydrant, in a "can't park here" area, or in a handicapped only spot, the city police will issue a \$35 ticket. This ticket will double in fine if not paid within 30 days. The city uses mostly Community Service Officers for parking enforcement.

SDCC Officers' Reports:

Vice President Wally Damon discussed the recent Bayfront Advisory Commission workshop. The bylaws were reviewed, and priorities established for next year. Wally stated that there is many issues being reviewed that impact Shore Drive.

President Todd Solomon commented on the Marina Shores project to build 261 apartments will be going to the Planning Commission in the fall. No date has yet been set. Mr. Clay Bernick has retired from his city position with the Environmental Sustainability Office, but he will remain as a private party to Friends of Live Oaks (FOLO). Miss Whitney McNamera will be his replacement until a permanent replacement is named.

The Beach Events issues will be presented Wednesday to City Council with recommendations from the Beaches and Waterways Advisory Commission. BAC wanted stricter guidance, especially governing the noise ordinance as it is presently so vague and ambiguous as to be unenforceable.

Todd welcomed two candidates for City Council in the audience and asked them to introduce themselves. Ms. Courtney LaLonde, a banker and Mr. Dane Blythe from the Tax Payer Alliance, both seeking an at-large seat on the City Council in the upcoming election.

There being no further discussions or new business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

David Williams

SDCC Secretary